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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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YOUR REF.:

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**BY FAX***Confirmation copy by mail*

Messrs.  
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO  
International Preliminary Examination Authority  
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**SWITZERLAND**  
(Suíça)

Re: International Application Number: PCT/BR2004/000129  
Applicant: BRASILATA S.A. EMBALAGENS METÁLICAS  
Title: "Improvement in a can plastic lid"

Dear Sirs,

In response to the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority issued on November 18, 2004, regarding the above-referenced patent application, we have the following comments for differentiating the present solution from the cited prior art. In view of these comments we suggest to include in claim 1 the definition of original claim 4 that the gripping tab (27) is incorporated only to the external edge (21b) of the sealing portion (21) and projecting through an interruption (25c) of the tamper evident portion (25), said gripping tab (27) maintaining a gap (29) with the lower skirt (25a) of said tamper evident portion (25). The inclusion of claim 4 into claim 1 makes more clear that the gripping tab (27) is not connect to the lower skirt (25a). Differing from Brasilata's solution, US4476993 gripping tab (34) is laterally and directly connected to the lower skirt (32) of the lid and incorporated to an external edge of the lid by axial bridges.

We hereby bring three copies of claim set pages 10 to 12 containing a new claim set amended accordingly. In order to facilitate the observation of the amendments, a further copy of said pages 10 to 12 is being attached where underscores indicate insertions and [bold in brackets] indicate deletions

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio M. P. Arnaud.

AMPA/vk

## CLAIMS

1. An improvement in a plastic lid for a can of the type which comprises a tubular body (10) having a lower end (11) and an upper end (13) carrying a seat (16) for the hermetic seating of a lid (20) which comprises, in a single piece, a sealing portion (21), removably seated and retained in the seat (16) and which is provided with an external edge (21b) projecting radially outwardly from the seat (16); a tamper evident portion (25) comprising a lower skirt (25a), to be seated around part of the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10) and which is superiorly incorporated, through bridges (26), to the external edge (21b) of the sealing portion (21), the tamper evident portion (25) presenting an interruption (25c) extending along at least part of the height of the lower skirt (25a), the sealing portion (21) incorporating, at its external edge (21b), a gripping tab (27) projecting through said interruption (25c) of the tamper evident portion (25), said bridges (26) being broken when submitted to a certain pulling force, which separates the tamper evident portion (25) from the sealing portion (21) upon the first opening of the lid (20), characterized in that the bridges (26) are axially disposed around a circumferential extension of the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10), in order to connect an upper edge (25b) of the lower skirt (25a) with the external edge (21b) of the sealing portion (21) in points which are angularly spaced apart, said gripping tab (27) maintaining a gap (29) with the lower skirt (25a).
2. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the external end (21b) of the sealing portion (21) incorporates a small cylindrical lower flap (21c) surrounding a circumferential

extension of the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10) from which the bridges (26) depend.

3. The improvement as set forth in any of claims 1 or 2, in which the upper end (13) of the tubular body  
5 (10) secures, by a double seam (14), an annular wall (15) in which is defined the seat (16) for the seating of the lid (20), characterized in that the lower skirt (25a) incorporates an internal circumferential projection (25h), axially spaced from the external  
10 edge (21b) of the sealing portion (21) and which is dimensioned to be seated and axially locked under the double seam (14), around the tubular body (10).

4. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the gripping tab (27) is  
15 substantially leveled with the lower skirt (25a), **[maintaining a gap (29) therebetween]**.

5. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the tamper evident portion (25) comprises at least one breakable lock (28) connecting  
20 the gripping tab (27) with the lower skirt (25a).

6. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the lower skirt (25a) incorporates the ends of a bridge (25d), circumferentially extending over the interruption  
25 (25c) of the tamper evident portion (25) and over the gripping tab (27), a first end (25e) of said ends of the bridge (25f) being incorporated to the lower skirt (25a) through connecting means (25f) which are broken when said first end (25e) is forced away from the  
30 lower skirt (25a), in order to liberate the manual access to the gripping tab (27).

7. The improvement as set forth in claim 6, characterized in that the bridge (25d) has its first end (25e) superposed to the lower skirt (25a) and  
35 incorporated thereto by two connecting means (25e)

which are circumferentially spaced apart.

8. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the upper end (21b) of the sealing portion (21) incorporates a circumferential upper rib (25g), projecting over the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10), so as to fit loosely and telescopically in the lower end (11) of another tubular body (10) stacked over said tubular body (10).

## CLAIMS

1. An improvement in a plastic lid for a can of the type which comprises a tubular body (10) having a lower end (11) and an upper end (13) carrying a seat (16) for the hermetic seating of a lid (20) which comprises, in a single piece, a sealing portion (21), removably seated and retained in the seat (16) and which is provided with an external edge (21b) projecting radially outwardly from the seat (16); a tamper evident portion (25) comprising a lower skirt (25a), to be seated around part of the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10) and which is superiorly incorporated, through bridges (26), to the external edge (21b) of the sealing portion (21), the tamper evident portion (25) presenting an interruption (25c) extending along at least part of the height of the lower skirt (25a), the sealing portion (21) incorporating, at its external edge (21b), a gripping tab (27) projecting through said interruption (25c) of the tamper evident portion (25), said bridges (26) being broken when submitted to a certain pulling force, which separates the tamper evident portion (25) from the sealing portion (21) upon the first opening of the lid (20), characterized in that the bridges (26) are axially disposed around a circumferential extension of the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10), in order to connect an upper edge (25b) of the lower skirt (25a) with the external edge (21b) of the sealing portion (21) in points which are angularly spaced apart, said gripping tab (27) maintaining a gap (29) with the lower skirt (25a).
2. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the external end (21b) of the sealing portion (21) incorporates a small cylindrical lower flap (21c) surrounding a circumferential

extension of the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10) from which the bridges (26) depend.

3. The improvement as set forth in any of claims 1 or 2, in which the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10) secures, by a double seam (14), an annular wall (15) in which is defined the seat (16) for the seating of the lid (20), characterized in that the lower skirt (25a) incorporates an internal circumferential projection (25h), axially spaced from the external edge (21b) of the sealing portion (21) and which is dimensioned to be seated and axially locked under the double seam (14), around the tubular body (10).

4. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the gripping tab (27) is substantially leveled with the lower skirt (25a).

5. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the tamper evident portion (25) comprises at least one breakable lock (28) connecting the gripping tab (27) with the lower skirt (25a).

6. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the lower skirt (25a) incorporates the ends of a bridge (25d), circumferentially extending over the interruption (25c) of the tamper evident portion (25) and over the gripping tab (27), a first end (25e) of said ends of the bridge (25f) being incorporated to the lower skirt (25a) through connecting means (25f) which are broken when said first end (25e) is forced away from the lower skirt (25a), in order to liberate the manual access to the gripping tab (27).

7. The improvement as set forth in claim 6, characterized in that the bridge (25d) has its first end (25e) superposed to the lower skirt (25a) and incorporated thereto by two connecting means (25e) which are circumferentially spaced apart.

8. The improvement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the upper end (21b) of the sealing portion (21) incorporates a circumferential upper rib (25g), projecting over the upper end (13) of the tubular body (10), so as to fit loosely and  
5       telescopically in the lower end (11) of another tubular body (10) stacked over said tubular body (10).